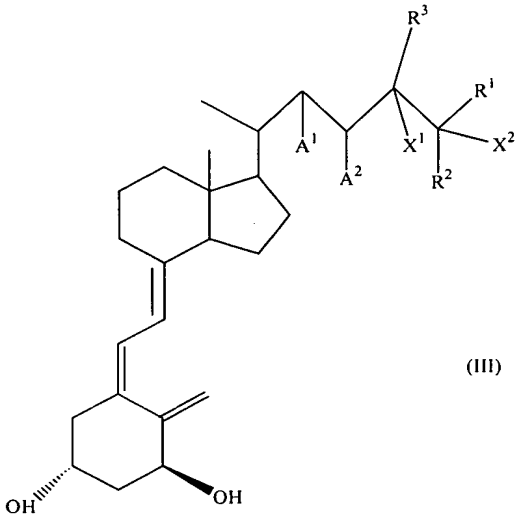
Listing of Claims

1-55 (Cancelled)

56. (New) A method of inhibiting hyperproliferation of malignant or neoplastic cells, comprising treating the cells episodically with an antiproliferative amount of an active vitamin D compound which is a hypocalcemic vitamin D, with reduced risk of hypercalcemia; the cells expressing a vitamin D receptor, wherein the amount of active vitamin D is a high dose which is between about 10μg to about 200μg/dose given once per week to once every 12 weeks.

57. (New) A method in accordance with claim 56, wherein the malignant cells are associated with cancers of the breast, colon, prostate, lung, pancreas, endometrium, liver, squamous cell carcinoma, myeloid leukemia, melanoma, retinoblastoma, sarcomas of the soft tissues or bone.

58. (New) A method in accordance with claim 56, wherein the hypocalcemic vitamin D compound is a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein A^1 and A^2 each are hydrogen or together represent a carbon-carbon bond, thus forming a double bond between C-22 and C-23; R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are

hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower fluoroalkyl, O-lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower fluoroalkenyl, O-lower alkenyl, O-lower acyl, O-aromatic acyl, lower cycloalkyl with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 cannot both be an alkenyl group, or taken together with the carbon to which they are bonded, form a C_3-C_8 cyclocarbon ring; R^3 is lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower fluoroalkyl, lower fluoroalkenyl, O-lower alkyl, O-lower alkenyl, O-lower acyl, O-aromatic acyl or lower cycloalkyl; X^1 is hydrogen or hydroxyl, or, taken with R^3, constitutes a bond when R^3 is an alkenyl group, and X^2 is hydrogen or hydroxyl, or, taken with R^1 or R^2, constitutes a double bond.

59. (New) A method in accordance with claim 56 wherein the active vitamin D is 1α-hydroxyvitamin D_2 or 1α,24-dihydroxyvitamin D_2.

60. (New) A method in accordance with claim 56 wherein the active vitamin D is 1α-hydroxyvitamin D_4; 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_2; 1α,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D_2 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_4; 1α,24,25-trihydroxyvitamin D_4; 24-hydroxyvitamin D_2; or 24-hydroxyvitamin D_4.

61. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the active vitamin D lacks a hydrocarbon moiety at the C-24 position.

62. (New) A method in accordance with claim 61 wherein the active vitamin D is 1α,25-dihydroxyvitamin D_3 or 1α-dihydroxyvitamin D_3.

63. (New) A method in accordance with claim 56 wherein the amount of the active vitamin D is administered to a human cancer patient, the amount of the active vitamin D effective to inhibit the hyperproliferation of the neoplastic cells.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the amount of the vitamin D compound is administered parenterally or orally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

65. (New) A method in accordance with claim 64 wherein the amount of vitamin D compound is administered parenterally.

66. (New) A method in accordance with claim 65 wherein the amount of vitamin D compound is administered intravenously.

67. (New) A method of inhibiting hyperproliferation of malignant or neoplastic cells, comprising treating the cells by co-administering an antihyperproliferative amount of an active vitamin D compound and an effective amount of an agent which is an antineoplastic agent, a bone agent, an antihypercalcemic agent or combinations thereof, the cells expressing a vitamin D receptor, the antiproliferative amount of the active vitamin D compound being a dose between 10μg to about 200μg/dose administered on an episodic basis which is once per week to about once per 12 weeks.

68. (New) A method in accordance with claim 67 wherein an amount of the active vitamin D compound and an amount of the agent are episodically co-administered to a human cancer patient, the amount of the active vitamin D effective to inhibit the hyperproliferation of the neoplastic cells.

69. (New) A method in accordance with claim 67 wherein the agent is an antineoplastic agent.

70. (New) A method in accordance with claim 69 wherein the antineoplastic agent is given episodically and the active vitamin D is given concurrently with the antineoplastic agent.

71. (New) A method in accordance with claim 69 wherein the antineoplastic agent is an antimetabolite, an antimicrotubule agent, an alkylating agent, a platinum agent, an anthrocycline, a topisomerase inhibitor, an antibiotic, any other antineoplastic agent or combinations thereof.

72. (New) A method in accordance with claim 67 wherein the bone agent is a bisphosphonate.

73. (New) A method in accordance with claim 67 wherein an active vitamin D compound, an antineoplastic agent and an antihypercalcemic agent are co-administered.